

In an increasingly Christophobic Western World which panders to both homosexuals and Muslims, a quick survey shows Australia is in the midst of a 'let's get religion out of schools' thrust while; Dawkins is on his way down-under again in 2012 for an atheist conference funded in part by one Aussie state Government, while surprisingly one survey in Oz reveals a large number of creationists. In the USA Louisiana headlines hit with a creation evolution ruling, and in the UK the anti creation groups are winding up their noise level while religion is predicted to be reaching its use by date yet again. It all makes for a fascinating and trifle long Evidence NEWS with EDitorial COMment number 13/11 from John Mackay and the world wide team at Creation Research

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ISN'T THE CREATION / EVOLUTION DEBATE JUST SCIENCE VS RELIGION? We are often challenged that creationists should stay out of science and education and keep creationism for religious believers. Diane Eager and John Mackay, who have both been involved in science education, answer this question. [CLICK](#).

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1. AUSTRALIA "A NATION OF CREATIONISTS" according to *Australasian Science* April 2011. Researchers at the University of Newcastle have carried out a survey of beliefs in origin of the universe and life. The survey was conducted on the Internet with participants recruited by "e-mail requests, advertisement on the University of Newcastle website, and distribution of advertisement leaflets in community settings (e.g. churches, universities, letterbox drops)". Participants were asked to choose from four options: "creationism (God created the universe, including all life, fully developed and similar to how we see it today); the Big Bang and evolution without any supernatural being accounting for our origins; theistic evolution (i.e. evolution guided by God); or some other explanation". (Text in brackets in original). They were also asked about their religious affiliation. Of the 850 Australian participants 443, i.e. 52 percent, claimed to believe in creationism. All of these identified themselves as Christians. The researchers combined their results with Australian census data about religious beliefs and came to the conclusion: "Therefore, the majority of Australian adults believe that God, or a supernatural being, was behind our origins. Of the 17 million adults in Australia in 2011, just under one-third (31 %) believe in creationism, just over one-quarter (27%) believe that God used the process of evolution, and the majority of the remaining 42% of adults in Australia believe in natural evolution without any divine involvement".

ED. COM. These researchers could be accused of stretching a point by drawing conclusions about 17 million Australians on the basis of 850 survey responses. However, the large percentage of survey participants who believed in creation, and were prepared to say so on a university based

survey, indicates that creation is not the marginal lunatic fringe belief that sceptics and politicians would like to claim it is. A few years ago the BBC found similar results from a survey in Britain, causing Richard Dawkins to accuse the British public of being “pig ignorant”. We wonder what he will say about Australia? (Ref. world views, philosophy, politics)

2. RELIGION GOING WAY DOWN UNDER as Victorian newspaper the *Age* Friday May 13, kick starts a series of “let’s get religion out of Australian Schools” with complaints that, “The Christian group that provides religious education and chaplains in Victorian government schools will be investigated after its chief executive told a conference: “We need to go and make disciples.”” The *Age* reports the Victorian government has been funding Access Ministries an extra \$200,000 this year on top of the chaplaincy fund contribution of \$500,000 a year over the past 4 years. Saturday’s *Age* page 3 quotes Bishop Steven Hail in bold headlines: “We’re not out to convert students in schools” and ‘Access Ministries has not breached federal and state rules’.

Then Sunday’s *Age* declared the Teachers’ Union has joined in to “Call for end to religious classes” and is asking that public education must remain free and secular. Surprisingly a *Sunday Age* item below the Teachers’ article reported the Victorian government will be providing funding for the 2012 atheist convention in Melbourne with authors Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens, Daniel Bennet and Sam Harris under the title “The four horseman of the anti-apocalypse.” The Victorian government has been arguing this convention will be a good income spinner for the state, so it is entitled to the same perks as other conventions.

A week later the Queensland *Courier Mail* weekend magazine 28th – 29th May published ‘God is in Sate school classrooms and not all parents approve’. In the Bible belt of Toowoomba, atheist Queensland father Ron Williams is alleging in a high court challenge that Government funding of school chaplains isn’t constitutional. Despite all the above the *Courier Mail* reported Tuesday May 10th 2011, Australian Federal Treasure Wayne Swan has announced in his budget that the chaplaincy programme would receive a \$222 million funding boost. This would provide further finance for 2,700 schools across Australia already in the programme, and to allow another thousand schools to take on a chaplain.

ED.COM. As someone who has been involved with education for a long time – this editor has learned one thing: students learn both from what is put in the curriculum as well as from what is deliberately left out! Education is derived from what children are not taught as much as from what they are taught. To bring students up in the absence of knowledge about God, does not make them religiously neutral so they are better able to make moral or religious decisions. The absence of religious education tells students that decisions of history, morality, politics, maths and science, etc. have been and can all be made agnostically without reference to God. But for all practical purposes students will have learned to be pragmatic atheists and live their lives without any moral compass beyond the fashions of our materialistic world. Don’t be fooled by the clever rhetoric of the Christophobic Atheists in our modern western societies who fear the very mention of Christ will expose the flaws in their logic – as it most certainly shall.

3. CLIMATE FRAUD as Aussie Govt accused of blatant climate lies in advertising pictures of defunct British power stations belching smoke in their say yes to a carbon tax campaign when no voter is actually being asked. Get the climate facts from all over the world [CLICK](#) for chronological arrangement or [CLICK](#) for topical climate file. Australia is often the trying ground for quirky new legislation so your country could be next.

4. LOUISIANA MAINTAINS RIGHT TO CRITIQUE EVOLUTION, according to AAAS Policy Alert 2 June 2011 and Miami Herald 26 May 2011. In 2008 the US state of Louisiana passed an act to allow teachers to analyse and critique controversial issues including, but not limited to, evolution, human cloning and global warming, and use extra source materials as well as the standard textbooks provided the extra material did not contain any religious content. A group of scientists and one Democrat Senator sought to repeal the law, but the other Senators on the State Education Committee and the State Governor voted against repealing the 2008 law. Those who wanted the law repealed are outraged, and claim the present law is a threat to the teaching of science". Harold

Kroto, a Nobel Prize winning chemist claimed "The present situation should be likened to requiring Louisiana school texts to include the claim that the Sun goes round the Earth". However, Stafford Palmieri, of the governor's office explained "This (repeal) bill is seeking to remove protections for teachers that give them the ability to teach the full breadth of scientific teaching".

Link: [Miami Herald](#)

ED. COM. The 2008 law does not require teachers to teach anything beyond the standard beliefs about evolution, global warming or any other topic. It just allows them and their students to analyse and critique them if they want to. Analysing and critiquing are essential processes in scientific progress. Demanding that politicians give evolution, global warming and human cloning legal protection from analysis and criticism does not make them true. The irrational comment by Harold Krato reminds us this is not an issue about science. It is an issue of world views and people feeling threatened when their world view is challenged. We can only suggest the evolutionists must feel they are on shaky ground if they cannot defend their world view on its own merits. (Ref. education, politics, philosophy, world views)

5. ASK WEB APOLOGY as we discover, after email complaints that the question form on our Ask John Mackay.com website has been dysfunctional for a while. If you have sent questions in the last 4 weeks, please resend as yours have vanished into the great cyber black hole. To send a question [CLICK](#).

6. PHYSICISTS PREDICT END OF RELIGION, according to a report in BBC News 22 March 2011. A group of researchers analysed census data from nine countries and concluded that "religion there is set for extinction". The team collected data from the following countries where the census asks for religious affiliation: Australia, Austria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Switzerland. Richard Wiener of University of Arizona explained: "In a large number of modern secular democracies, there's been a trend that folk are identifying themselves as non-affiliated with religion; in the Netherlands the number was 40%, and the highest we saw was in the Czech Republic, where the number was 60%". The team used a mathematical model known as non-linear dynamics to analyse the data. This model has previously been used to predict the demise of languages. Wiener explained: "It posits that social groups that have more members are going to be more attractive to join, and it posits that social groups have a social status or utility. For example in languages, there can be greater utility or status in speaking Spanish instead of Quechuan in Peru, and similarly there's some kind of status or utility in being a member of a religion or not".

Link [BBC](#)

ED. COM. These physicists and mathematicians should learn some lessons from history. Voltaire the famous French atheist, the communists of the Soviet empire and the British Beatles John Lennon all said similar things and look what has happened to each of them. These researchers seem to be working on the assumption that religious belief is just something people participate in because it is culturally acceptable. People didn't join the church in Russia under communism because it was "acceptable". The authors of this enews did not become Christian creationists because their academic colleagues made it the IN group. Somehow the real God never seems to just go away when it becomes unfashionable to be in the church. And the reason is simple – the real creator God does not exist in the beliefs of people, or because of God idea winning a popularity contest. Truth is never determined by who or how many believe in it. Even if no-one believed, God still exists. Furthermore this God who is Christ has promised he will have a people for himself until the end of the world. (Ref. philosophy, world views, surveys, society)

7 AUSSIES DON'T MISS - Jurassic Ark reopening Saturday 13th August, 12.00pm – 3:00pm. Come and see, not only the repaired site, but the updated Outdoor Creation Museum at Gympie Australia – it's looking great. Join us for a BBQ at 12:00pm. RSVP to: info@creationresearch.net or phone (07) 3206 4467. Your funds and prayers have helped us. First schools return in Mid August. [CLICK](#) for pictures.

8. NEXT OUTBACK AUSSIE CREATION TOUR - August 2012 [CLICK](#) for a slide show of the last tour.

9. USA AND CANADA MEETINGS June July [CLICK USA](#) and [CLICK CANADA](#).

10. UK ANTI-CREATION CAMPAIGN is reported by Ekklesia, who describe themselves as a “beliefs and values think tank”. A group of scientists, educators and church leaders, including Professors Steve Jones and Richard Dawkins and Reverends Michael Roberts and David Jennings, have sent an open letter to Michael Gove, the Secretary of State for Education in the UK, and other Education politicians, calling for a ban on creationism in schools. The letter complains that a creationist had been invited to St Peter’s, a state secondary school in Exeter, Devon “to lecture to Year 11 students as part of an RE revision day” and finishes with this demand: “Creationism is known, and officially acknowledged, to be contrary to scientific fact. We therefore demand that creationism should not be presented as a valid scientific position, nor creationist websites and resources be promoted, in publicly funded schools or in any youth activities run on publicly funded school premises”. (RE is Religious Education)

Those who signed the letter have formed an organisation named CrISIS, an acronym for “Creationism In Schools Isn’t Science”. This organisation is supported by the British Centre for Science Education, Ekklesia and the National Secular Society and has started a petition asking people to sign up to the same demand they sent to the Education politicians.

However, it seems the event that resulted in the letter and the petition was not a lecture on creation, but a debate with an evolutionist, and as their letter admits, it did not occur in a science lesson, but in a Religious Education lesson. The organisation has been criticised for over-reacting, even by its supporters. Andrew McMullon, one of the signatories wrote on the CrISIS Facebook page: “It seems that the incident reported by CrISIS was NOT creationism being taught as science but creationism being debated (in front of intelligent 16 year olds) as part of an RE event! So I feel that CrISIS got my signature under false pretences by misrepresenting and over-reacting to a reasonable occurrence in a school”. A blogger with the pseudonym Church Mouse, who is openly anti-creationist, published an article entitled “The hysterical reaction to creationism in schools” 13 May 2011, that included the following comments: “How better to learn what creationists believe than to hear it explained by a creationist. How better to challenge those beliefs than to hear him debate those beliefs with a scientist who can explain the evidence for evolution. What on earth is dangerous here?” and further on: “The lesson was RE, and the views were challenged. If the argument is that false claims should not be allowed to be heard, then we are in a very dangerous place”.

Links: [Ekklesia](#) [Andrew McMullon](#) [Church Mouse](#)

ED. COM: The Church Mouse blog is correct – the reaction by the CrISIS group is hysterical. A debate between a creationist and an evolutionist is perfectly reasonable activity to have – even in a Religious Education programme. This kind of over-the-top reaction is not new, and Creation Research has had personal experience of this in the UK and many other places. In 2006 the editors of this newsletter had been invited to give a series of lessons on creation in a public high school in Britain. After some fear-mongering publicity by local sceptics who threatened to picket the school the principal revoked the invitation. During this time one of our speakers had also been invited to speak at a Christian Union meeting at another British school. In spite of the fact that the Christian Union is a voluntary extra-curricular activity, school authorities intervened and forced them to cancel the invitation.

The reason for these irrational reactions is because the creation evolution debate is not about science versus religion, but a clash of two world views. If evolution was real science, it would stand up to any honest scrutiny. But since it is religion disguised as science, anti creationist sceptics have to call on politicians (and in some places lawyers) to protect evolution from any challenges or alternative views, so students cannot find out how they are being conned. Creationism is a direct threat to the philosophy of materialism, or naturalism, which is the prevailing world view in academic circles, therefore, the naturalist educational elite and the liberal theologians cannot allow

students to hear what's wrong with their view from any source. The Rev Roberts is also a geologist who neither believes Genesis, nor most of the New Testament and has been involved in loudly opposing Creation Research ever since he was publically thrashed in a debate at Scorton UK by John Mackay, because Roberts' anti Christ stand was exposed for what it actually is – old fashioned rebellion against the Creator. (Ref. philosophy, politics, atheism)

11. AUSTRALIA MEETINGS JUNE [CLICK](#).

12. FEAR DEATH, DISLIKE DAWKINS according to reports in PLoS ONE 31 March 2011 and ScienceDaily 23 May 2011. Psychologists from University of British Columbia and Union College, Schenectady, N.Y. have carried out a series of studies to see why people believe in Intelligent Design rather than evolution, in spite of the way ID is condemned as being unscientific by the mainstream scientific community, including by these researchers. They wanted to test the idea that Intelligent Design provided “an explanation of life's origins that better addresses existential concerns than evolutionary theory”. By “existential concerns” they mean being confronted with one's own mortality.

Participants were first asked either to imagine their own deaths and write about it, or to imagine dental pain and write about that. The participants were then given brief descriptions of Intelligent Design and Evolution from the writings of two main proponents of these ideas – Michael Behe for Intelligent Design and Richard Dawkins for Evolution. The descriptions dealt only with scientific aspects of the theories, without any religious or philosophical claims. Study participants were then asked to indicate liking or disliking for both the theories and the writers, i.e. Behe and Dawkins. Those who had been confronted with their own death were more inclined to favour ID and Behe, and reject evolution and Dawkins, compared with those confronted with the unpleasant dental but not life threatening experience. Jessica Tracy, who led the studies, commented: "Our results suggest that when confronted with existential concerns, people respond by searching for a sense of meaning and purpose in life. For many, it appears that evolutionary theory doesn't offer enough of a compelling answer to deal with these big questions".

Having obtained similar results with three groups of participants of widespread religious, socioeconomic and educational backgrounds, the researchers carried out the same study with a group of psychology students, but with an extra step, described by the research team as “teaching participants that naturalism can be a source of existential meaning”. The “teaching” consisted of getting them to read a paragraph from Carl Sagan's writings where he states; the belief that people are nothing but atoms gives meaning to life because “We make our purpose. And we have to work out what that is, for ourselves”. This group was more inclined to evolution than Intelligent Design. Tracy commented: "These findings suggest that individuals can come to see evolution as a meaningful solution to existential concerns, but may need to be explicitly taught that taking a naturalistic approach to understanding life can be highly meaningful".

Links: [PLoS ONE](#) [ScienceDaily](#)

ED. COM. In spite of the much publicised views of Dawkins, deep down people know there is more to human life than just the material world, and being confronted with death brings that out. People know there is something inherently unnatural about death, but if evolution is true then death has to be accepted as just a natural part of life, and there is nothing that can be done about it, and whatever purpose we make for ourselves vanishes when we die.

The Biblical record in Genesis tells us the real “why” about how death came into the world; it's not a physical necessity, but a moral penalty for disobeying our Creator. The remainder of the Biblical account is about how this moral penalty has been paid by the singular death of the sinless Lord Jesus Christ. So the good news is that all who put their faith in Him will also find purpose meaning in this life by knowing the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, and better yet, the Christian need never fear death as God's gift is eternal life in a brand new body in new heavens and a new earth where righteousness dwells. Carl Sagan departed this life in 1996 and would have quickly learned evolution and materialism are not the answer to the search for meaning as he faced the God who is not only Creator but the Judge of all men. (Ref. mortality, philosophy, world-view)

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